

Wemyss Bay Village News

208th Edition

April 2007

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Wemyss Bay Primary News

Grandparents / Parents Day – Gillian & Megan (p7)

On 23rd February it was our annual Grandparents / Parents Day in Wemyss Bay Primary School. It has always been a tradition in Wemyss Bay. Everyone enjoyed the day and hopefully when we move to our temporary school at Easter (Kings Glen) it will still take place.

The grandparents came to visit the pupils in the morning and they did lots of fun activities. They helped the pupils in Primary 7 draw a Vincent Van Gogh picture of a bedroom. Other activities included a space mobile in primary 4, making a balancing parrot in Primary 3/4, and cursive handwriting in Primary 3.

In the afternoon the parents helped Primary 7 draw a picture of Picasso's "Woman In A Chair". The parents of Primary 6 pupils helped them make props for our school show, Treasure Island, and in Primary 5 they made collages of landscapes. The activity in primary 1 was making caterpillar puppets and in Primary 2 they made giraffes from newspaper.

While enjoying a cup of tea or coffee in the hall, the Grandparents and Parents were entertained by the Scottish poetry finalists, singing games performed by the nursery, Primary 1 and Primary 2, and the winning Brownie team of Scottish country dancers. Everyone had a great day!

Book Fair – Rachel, Gillian & Sophie (p7)

On 9 and 12 March, Wemyss Bay Primary had a book fair. There were books, stationery and posters, all to be sold. It all went very well and we raised a lot of money for the school. The Primary 7 pupils were put into groups of three and they were in charge of selling the books for two days. There was a timetable for each class so that they knew when to go to the book fair. Some people forgot their money but they were able to reserve a book they liked and they were able to pay for it the next day. We raised £944.59 altogether and everyone had a great time.

Parking around the School

The Village News has been contacted by a number of people to complain that parking around the school continues to be a problem, with some parents or carers still showing little or no regard for the safety of any, but their own, children by parking on the zigzags. This is particularly noticeable during bad weather, but also following after-school activities, indeed recently one mother was spotted parked, not on the zigzags, but across the red crossing area, forcing other children to try and go round her car to cross and totally obscuring them from oncoming traffic. (Never mind the risk to all the other children, her little darling didn't get wet!)

It is illegal to park on zigzags at any time, not just during school hours, so please bear this in mind and park safely.

Obviously, the police cannot be around all the time and there is nothing that school staff can do, other than to ask people to move, however, if you and another witness are prepared to make a complaint to the police giving your name and address and the details of the car involved, they can take action.

In the lead up to the Easter holidays, the situation was not helped by work taking place to extend the Community Centre car-park. This work was essential to provide parking bays for the buses which will be used to transport the children every day to their temporary accommodation at Kings Glen.

When the schools return after Easter, please try and park responsibly and also bear in mind that, as the Community Centre car-park is the collection and dropping off point for school buses, there will be many more children in this area so please pay extra attention if parking here.

Doctor's Surgery Parking

You are reminded that parking in the surgery carpark is solely for the use of patients and staff. Again, when parents are dropping children off and picking them up from school or nursery this appears to be a problem, with people making use of the surgery carpark to save themselves a walk. This has resulted in patients being unable to park. Show some consideration: these people need to use the carpark because they are unwell, how would you feel if it were your child and you couldn't get parked?

P4 – P7 Youth Club

The p4 – p7 youth club meets every Thursday during term time from 7 – 8.30pm. There is a 50p entrance charge and a tuck shop is available during the night. With a wide variety of activities to choose from there is something to suit everyone whether you prefer football, basketball, badminton, table-tennis, rounders, arts & crafts, music, computer games, board games or some of the other activities which take place on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining, or would like your child to do so then please come along any Thursday night and speak to Liz or Janice.

The Youth Club is run totally by volunteers without any support or funding from Inverclyde Council and, contrary to the belief of some parents, does not make a profit, in fact leaders regularly dip into their own pockets to pay for materials, treats and to cover let fees. It is, understandably, annoying when some people seem to persist in claiming that leaders are being paid for their time – as with most of our local organisations leaders give their time for no recompense. Leaders have been vetted through Disclosure Scotland.

Comic Relief at Wemyss Bay Primary

Friday 16th March was Comic Relief's Red Nose Day and pupils at Wemyss Bay Primary entered into the spirit of the event. Primary 7 pupils planned the fun day which included face-painting and lots of fun and games. In addition pupils were asked to attend school that day wearing over-sized clothes.

During the fortnight leading up to the day pupils were able to purchase red noses, including a sticker and a small chocolate, for the sum of £1.

A total of £289.44 was raised, which will be sent to Comic Relief and used to help worthwhile projects both in Africa and at home. Well done to everyone who took part.

Bouncy Castle Parties

Not sure what to do for your child's birthday party? Think of the mess which a dozen or more small people can produce in your home. Looking for a solution? Then look no further than Wemyss Bay Community Centre. You can hire the centre, complete with Bouncy Castle for a 2-hour party for only £52. Community Association volunteers open and lock up after your party and set up the bouncy castle and put it away again. All you have to do is come along with your guests and have fun. You are asked to return the centre to the state you found it but a quick brush over is enough to tidy up. The centre's kitchen is available if you wish to provide hot food and there are plenty of tables and chairs.

For more information, or to make your booking, contact **Kirsty 520738**.

Woodland Association Plea

It is our aim to try and complete the major part of the remaining rhododendron clearance in the terraced gardens and its approaches within the next couple of months, leaving us only a limited amount of re-growth to tackle thereafter. If you have been along at any time in the last 4 years, why not join us for a last push. If you have not helped out before but use the wood in any way, then this is your opportunity to join in and contribute to the improvement of a much used local amenity. We have a small, but dedicated, band of volunteers but it would really make a difference to our work if a few more people were to join us, even for an hour or two. As the average age of our volunteers is 55yrs (and this takes into account the couple of children) it really is amazing the amount of work we have achieved but we are running out of steam. Many people stop to say that they are pleased with the work completed to date and this is always good to hear but a couple of hours work would mean so much more. The Association will be holding working weekends on Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th and Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd April and Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th May. We are continuing to work in the area adjoining Ardgowan Road heading up to the point at the end of Cliff Terrace Road so meet at the Ardgowan Road of Cliff Terrace Road. We work from 9.30am – 3pm and provide all the necessary gloves, safety glasses and tools. In addition we stop for coffee/tea and biscuits in the morning and provide hot sausage rolls and soup at lunchtime. We have a qualified first aider present at all times (although thankfully, so far, the worst we have had to deal with is the odd scratch, minor cut or midge bites). Children are welcome to come along (we do have gloves to fit) however they must be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

It is not too late to join the Association. Membership costs £3 for a household or £2 for an individual and runs for one calendar year. Information about this or any other aspect of the work of the Association can be obtained by contacting **Eila on 529375** or email: eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

2007 Gala – Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June.

A bit of a change of format for this year's Gala. As usual, the gala weekend kicks off on the Friday night, this year with a Beach Party. Everyone is encouraged to get into the spirit of the night by wearing appropriate clothing – just remember the midges!! We will tell you in next month's village News about ticket prices and when they go on sale. You will need to be quick to secure your tickets as last year they sold out in two days!

Saturday is Gala Day, with the usual range of stalls, entertainment and fairground attractions. This year we will see the return of the ever popular Laser Quest, Giant Slide and Assault Course. The Animal Man will be back again this year for the little ones, who will also be catered for with a carousel, bouncy castle and junior inflatable slide. There will be visits by the Police, Fire Brigade and Coastguard, while several of our local organisations will be displaying their talents throughout the day. If you need some refreshments you will have a choice of burgers, hot dogs, pies & Bovril, homemade soup or, of course the Guide and Brownie tearoom. Many of our local groups, clubs and organisations will have stalls and sideshows and we would ask that you show them your support and help them raise some much needed funds.

For the first time ever, Gala Day will wind up at 8pm; however there will not be an earlier break and entertainment will continue through to the end, with last orders at 7.30pm. Obviously, therefore, there will be no need for tickets for Saturday evening, although there is a limit on numbers in the marquee so, unless you secure a place earlier in the day, you will not get in.

On Sunday, Ardgowan Football Development will hold their Open Day, showcasing the talent and achievements of our local youngsters. Details of their programme for the day will appear in future editions of the Village News.

As usual the success of the Gala depends entirely on having enough volunteers to help out with the preparations and to ensure that everything runs smoothly over the weekend and this year is no exception. As each year the Gala gets bigger and better, it is even more vital that this year we have more volunteers. We require bar staff, face-painters, people to run the Association's stall, helpers at the bouncy castle, people to sell tokens for rides, staff for the soup kitchen, raffle ticket and balloon race sellers, furniture removers, tent erectors, cleaners, dish-washers, litter-collectors. We need volunteers from 8.30am till 11pm on Friday, 8.30am till 8.30pm on Saturday and again on Sunday until around 5pm. In order to give everyone the chance to enjoy the weekend we are trying to draw up a rota so that everyone just has to do an hour or two's work over the course of the weekend – are you available? There is something that everyone could do, so if you want to be involved in helping your community enjoy a great Gala weekend and are available over the course of the event, even for an hour or two, then please phone Eila on 529375. Believe it or not, it is fun!

Well Done Brownies!

Once again Wemyss Bay Brownie country dance team have been excellent ambassadors for the community. The girls danced away with 1st place at the Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Festival winning the Rob Roy trophy with an extremely impressive 85 points (a mark that was higher than some awarded in the adult classes!) They managed to succeed again by winning 1st place at the Glasgow Music Festival, where adjudicator Christine Traynor said "I have never seen a Brownie team dance so well!"

2nd Wemyss Bay Country dance team have competed at the Inverclyde Festival for 15 years now, and have won 1st place on 8 occasions, been 2nd on 6 occasions and only missed out on either top spot once!! They have danced at Glasgow for the last 3 years and have managed to win all 3 years! This success shows just how hard all the girls work throughout their practices.

This year's team who included, Emma, Nicola, Rachel, Gemma, Emma, Mhairi, Iona, Jayne, Kendal and Katrina were clearly up to the challenge of retaining both titles from last year. The girls practiced very hard and managed to squeeze in performances at the Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay country dance group, the Guide ceilidh and Wemyss Bay Primary Schools Grandparents day and they are looking forward to showing the entire village their skills at the Gala Day.

As their teacher I would like to say a huge thank you to the girls as their hard work and enthusiasm truly does pay off. Also a thank you must go to the girls' parents who are always excellent supporters, Brown Owl and all the Brownie leaders who allow the girls to take part every year and Mr Lamb who has been running the Brownies to the festival for the last 13 years!! Finally this year a huge thank you must go to Mrs Gregory who managed to make 4 beautiful new dresses for some of the Brownies.

That is the end of this years country dancing for the Brownies but I am sure they will be back again in October ready to perform to the high standard who have become accustomed to in Wemyss Bay.

David Cairns MP - New climate change legislation fits the bill

To me, climate change is quite simply the most important issue facing our planet today and that's why I've returned to the subject for this month's edition of the Wemyss Bay News. Over the last few years the debate has shifted from whether we need to act to when we need to act and just how much we need to do. From my postbag, I know that this is something which interests people across the whole of Inverclyde, but I do get more enquiries about it from Wemyss Bay than almost any other part of the constituency. Whether this is prompted by living in close proximity to the sea, or by the fact that there are many parents with young families in the village who are clearly concerned about the kind of world their children will inherit, I don't know. But it is something which is obviously worrying you, which is why I decided to use this month's column to outline the UK Government plans to tackle this in its Climate Change Bill.

We will be the first country in the world to adopt a long-term legal framework for managing our transition to a low carbon economy. We will set challenging targets to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions by 26%-32% by 2020 and by at least 60% by 2060, using 1990 as our baseline. And what's more, we will make these targets legally binding. As we have seen from past experience good intentions alone are not enough, you need to have a very tight monitoring and reporting system to make something like this succeed.

So how will it work in practice? Just how are we going to deliver this? Well, we know it won't be easy, and that's why we are setting up a new body to provide the Government with independent expert advice and guidance on achieving its targets and staying within its carbon budget. It will be called the Committee on Climate Change.

We will introduce a new system of legally binding five year "carbon budgets", set at least 15 years ahead, to provide clarity on the UK's pathway towards its key targets and increase the certainty that businesses and individuals need to invest in low-carbon technologies. And we will have a system of annual reporting to Parliament so we know how well we are doing. The Committee on Climate Change will provide a progress report to which the Government must respond and, ultimately, if it fails, the Government can be taken to court.

These are tough measures but I think that we need them, otherwise we will destroy our world, and those living closest to the sea in villages like Wemyss Bay will be among the first to suffer. But everyone needs to play their part and even little changes can make a big difference. Could you cut out even one car journey a week; I know I could. And next time you buy an electrical appliance why not make sure it carries the energy saving logo; and don't forget that home insulation, you can cut your energy bills and help save the planet all at the same time.

The frightening thing is we don't have much time. Some scientists predict that if we don't stop adding carbon dioxide to our atmosphere within the next ten years, it will be too late and the climate will be irreversibly damaged. We have to make the Climate Change Bill work – for the sake of our all our children's futures.

David Cairns holds surgeries on the first and third Friday of the month from 10am – 12noon at his Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock Tel: 791820, Fax: 791821, or alternatively you can phone the office for details of his next surgery in Wemyss Bay. These details, along with other information, appear on his website: www.davidcairns.com

Guiding in Wemyss Bay – Alison Carmichael

22nd February is an important day for all members of Girl Guiding as it is International Thinking Day. This year the girls all took part in a wonderful service at Greenock Town Hall, where bubbles were a large part of the theme. The Guides painted some ceramic work, enjoyed a trip to McDonalds for their lunch and then had just enough time to stop for a quick shop around the mall before the service!

Girl Guiding in Wemyss Bay has been steadily busy over the last few weeks with each group working through their programme. The Rainbows have been making some interesting glasses, which could rival Dame Edna's for their look part of their programme.

The Brownies are looking forward to going out and about if weather permits and therefore could all girls please bring outdoor jackets.

Lastly the Guides have been getting crafty by making lovely Mother's day cards which were shaped liked handbags! The Guides currently have a number of places available, and if you are interested please come and visit us on a Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the community centre.

Girl Guiding Wemyss Bay is always looking for extra volunteers and if you feel you could spare just 12 hours a year (yip that's all we need!) then contact us at "girlguidingwemyssbay@yahoo.co.uk".

Bible Club and Youth Group (SBM)

The Bible Club and Youth Group, run by Strathclyde Bible Ministries (SBM), are off on the following dates for the Easter and school holidays: 2nd, 9th, 23rd April. We are on on the following dates: 16th and 30th April.

All children of Primary School age are welcome at Bible Club which is on from 6.15pm to 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

Activities include games, songs, competitions, Bible stories and other activities. The Youth Group is from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and is for young people in P6, P7 and high school, with similar activities suitable for that age, including games and a tuck shop.

There are no fees for either club. Please contact Stephen Renton for more information on 01505 355994.

Councillor Forbes

By now most houses will have had their Council Tax notification through the door and it is good news. Inverclyde Council for the first time in its history has managed to cut Council Tax and freeze Council rents. The Council Tax is being cut by 0.65% and while this might not seem much it is set against a background of Council Tax increases across the rest of Scotland averaging 1.9% and inflation running at 2.7%. Also the cut has been made without raiding the reserves, without cuts in Council services or compulsory redundancies. Considering the fact that the Council inherited "the famous black-hole" in finances in 2003 it is down to prudent financial management, making right decisions and hard work that has now brought about a financial stability from which the residents of Inverclyde can now start to benefit. Further areas of investment in the budget were: £1million of capital monies will be spent on roads and this has been a continual investment over the past three years in an effort to redress the balance of non-investment over a number of years prior to that; £400,000 to continue our cleaner and greener programme; £1.5m for a Community Investment Fund the main thrust of which is to improve leisure/community facilities throughout Inverclyde and a share of this will go to upgrading Wemyss Bay Community Centre. The largest single section of the budget will be £33million capital spending on schools over the next two years. There are many other areas of investment such as £1million committed to Riverside Inverclyde, our Urban Regeneration Company, to continue its programme of regeneration including the waterfront which everyone can see is being transformed. A £600,000 Efficiency Fund set up to make the Council run more efficiently and improve performance. A commitment was made to get the finances of this Council back to a sound footing and this has been done. There will be challenges in the years to come but if you start off with a good base then these can be

addressed. It is dangerous to make future financial commitments as to levels of charges but easier to tackle if the finances are right.

Wemyss Bay school is about to start and there is a lot of work going on around the school to facilitate the decant and give better lighting there, something for which I have lobbied. The extension to the car park will allow more parking there and better lighting will add some security to the hall. A Newsletter has been produced with up to date information about the decant, build etc., and it has been distributed through "schoolbags" to parents. I said I would ensure that communication would be maintained and this will be done. There will be a "dry run" prior to the actual decant so that we all can experience the journey. There will be a leaflet circulated regarding parking around the school during the decant and I would ask parents to help by agreeing to not parking inappropriately. I will continue to ensure that communication is continued and an "open day" will be arranged when the school moves to King's Glen. There is a lot of work on-going at King's Glen at this moment in time.

A problem that is not going away is the depositing of dog's dirt on footpaths and other places. I have now been successful in getting the dog wardens to cover the village and they have in fact visited. It is an expensive walk with the dog if the person in charge falls foul of the Officers. Please be considerate and don't have the Wardens on "your tail."

As everybody is aware there is an election on 3 May 2007 and even although I will be a participant I feel it is essential to remind eligible voters to take the time to cast their votes. It is a different method of selecting Councillors this time and a small leaflet from VoteScotland accompanying the Council Tax notices explains the system. The deadline for a postal vote application is 18 April 2007. Please use your vote.

Contact Me: I would like to remind everyone that, if you have a problem or query which you think I may be able to help with, I can be contacted at the Municipal Buildings Tel: 717171 Fax: 01475 712976 or e-mail:

Eric.Forbes@inverclyde.gov.uk Out with office hours I can be contacted at home: 520012 or on my mobile: 07747 006725. I believe that rather than waiting several weeks for a surgery, it is better for my constituents if I am available at the end of a telephone at any time. Thereafter, if necessary, I can arrange a suitable follow-up meeting.

Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Parish Church – Rev William Armstrong

A former Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, said famously that "a week is a long time in politics".

Whether Jesus felt that the last week of his life was a long time we can only guess; it was certainly eventful.

On the day we call Palm Sunday, he came to the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He had raised the expectations of his followers that something significant would happen. They expected him to come as the King who would rid his people of their enemies and establish the Kingdom of God in the world.

By the end of the week he had been crucified. The hope and expectation of his followers had evaporated. His closest friends had denied and betrayed him. Apparently those who had opposed him had won. The forces of evil had overcome the aspirations of the hopeful; but no-one had taken account the power and purpose of God.

The resurrection of Jesus on Easter Day was proof positive that love always wins.

HOLY WEEK and EASTER CELEBRATIONS

1 April – PALM SUNDAY Service, 11.00am

5 April – MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, 7.00pm

6 April – GOOD FRIDAY Service at Inverkip Church, 7.00pm

8 April – EASTER DAY

Sunrise Service at Meigle Beach, 7.00am

followed by Breakfast in Church Hall

followed by Holy Communion

EASTER PRAISE, 11.00am

Regular Events

SUNDAY WORSHIP, every Sunday at 11.00am

SUNDAY CLUB (*for children*), every Sunday at 11.00am

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, last Sunday of every month, 10.15am

OUT OF THE ARK (*for primary school children*) the last Monday of every month

BALLROOM DANCING, every Tuesday, 7.00pm

COUNTRY DANCING, every Wednesday, 7.30pm

You are welcome to attend the events that may be of interest to you.

71st Ayrshire Scout Group & THE BAY Explorer Unit - Iain Carmichael (ESL)

Already in this centenary year of Scouting, all sections of the group have been busy following programme ideas around the centenary theme of "One World, One Promise". With this theme linked to the "International Group Award" the Explorer Unit recently hosted an evening with the Eagle Cub Pack, where both sections completed items on "International Scouting", "No More Landmines" and a few games that took many of the Explorer Scouts back to their early days in Scouting in the 71st Scout Group. A noisy and fun packed night ensured that everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Beavers have just completed two of their newest badges "Health & Fitness" and "Healthy Eating", along with some new boys joining as older boys "move-up" to cubs makes for an exciting time. The colony is now looking forward to a visit from the local community police officer.

At their recent Cub weekend camp (indoor), 18 cubs enjoyed themselves when the ever popular theme for the weekend was "Cowboys & Indians", the activities included Wigwam building, a night hike to Kelly woods and the completion of the "Artist" badge. Next week, at the time of writing 12 cubs and 4 leaders will be attending the Scotland V Georgia football game to lend their voices to the home support!!

March saw the Scouts at their first weekend camp of the year, even a late change of venue could not dampen the boy's enthusiasm, though I did hear that skipper's cooking skills were called in to question by some of the Explorer Scouts helping at the camp. A great weekend in the outdoors was had by all.

21st World Scout Jamboree - Two members of the Explorer unit Gordon Ferdinand and Robin Carmichael have been selected to be part of the South West Scotland Jamboree unit to attend the Jamboree which will be held at Hylands Park in Essex, where 40,000 scouts from around the world will participate in the 12 day camp. The unit would thank the Wemyss Bay Community Association, the 71st Scout Group and the Eagle & Tiger Cub Packs for the financial support they have given the boys attending the Jamboree.

For further information concerning the group, please contact Iain Carmichael on 01475 520697 or Email:

The71stAyrshireScoutGroup@yahoo.co.uk

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Community Council

On the 6th of March Chairman Innes Nelson and Gerry Langham of Skelmorlie Community Council attended a site meeting at Wemyss Bay station with John Yellowlees, external relations manager at First Scotrail and Station Team Manager Alf Cashmore. Firstly the need to attend to the poor condition of the station frontage was noted. John told us the provision of 24-hour online CCTV is fairly imminent, and Transport Scotland is also funding an extension of the station car park on land owned by Network Rail later this year.

We spoke about Adopt a Station opportunities for the community to help to restore a floral presence by committing to the weeding and watering of tubs or planters (which may be easier to maintain safely than hanging baskets).

The future of the ticket rooms vacated by Caledonian MacBrayne was also raised, and John referred to another aspect of our Adopt a Station policy which is to find community or start-up business use for surplus accommodation which would otherwise stand empty. We hope to hold a joint community meeting with Skelmorlie Community Council in the near future to discuss all the proposals further, and it would be great if we could bring a team of volunteers together to help enhance this wonderful old building.

We have also been informed that given the importance of this listed building the Railway Heritage Trust is prepared to offer a grant towards the cost of restoration/repair and reordering works to help regenerate the building.

Most of you will by now have noticed the trees being felled behind Bridgend Cottages in Inverkip. Macintosh Homes Limited of Skelmorlie has had a planning application approved to build 28 houses and flats at the rear of the Cottages. The Community Council had objected to the planning application as it encroached into the greenbelt, but Inverclyde planners recommended it be approved. The higher section of the wood is to be replaced with hardwoods, so it is hoped the look of the area will improve in the future.

If you have any concerns we can help with please contact us, or we would be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings which are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Rogues Room at the Inverkip Hotel. Our next meeting is on the 5th of April 2007. The Community Council is actively seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Lynne Chambers on 522603 or Innes Nelson on 520092.

WEA, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Branch – Jenny McGee

The first of our twice-yearly outings will take place on WEDNESDAY 9th MAY when we are going by coach to Edinburgh to visit Lauriston Castle followed by Rosslyn Chapel near Penicuik.

Lauriston Castle is a fine example of a grand Edwardian house left very much as when it was given in Trust to the Nation in 1926. Its interior is therefore very much redolent of the leisured and wealthy middle class way of life typical of the years before the Great War. The original tower house, dating back to the 1590's was built for Sir Archibald Napier father of the famous mathematician and inventor of Logarithms, John Napier. It lies within large landscaped gardens which includes the Edinburgh/Kyoto Friendship Garden, one of the largest Japanese gardens created in the UK over the past 100 years. This magnificent property overlooks the Firth of Forth and enjoys magnificent views across to Fife and beyond.

Rosslyn Chapel is now known worldwide due to the success of the book/film "The Da Vinci Code" in which it plays a significant part. It dates back to 1446 and contains an abundance of fascinating carvings in stone and is a wonderful example of eccentric architecture.

If anyone would like to join us for the day the cost will be £22 (£20 concessions) to cover all entrance fees and guided tours plus travel by coach. Pick ups can be arranged for Wemyss Bay and the coach will leave Skelmorlie Community Centre at 9.00 a.m returning between 6.30 and 7.00 in the evening. For bookings and any other information please phone Jenny McGee - 521090.

Community Association

Wemyss Bay Community Association meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Inverkip Hotel. The Association is responsible for running the Community Centre, the Annual Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on evening. If you are interested in becoming involved in the work of the Association, or even if you simply would like to find out a bit more about what is going on, you will be most welcome to come along to any of the meetings.

Wemyss Bay Primary PTA – Gillian Pollock

Wemyss Bay Primary PTA are holding a Ladies Pamper Evening on Thursday 26th April 2007 in Wemyss Bay Community Centre from 7.30pm till 10.30pm.

Tickets cost £3.50 and are available from the school. This will include entry into a prize draw and a free glass of wine.

Once again we are being joined by the therapists from James Watt College who will be on hand to offer a variety of treatments from waxing to manicures. We also have Alison from Pondera carrying out onsite massage. All treatments are bookable on the night at a cost of £5 each.

All details will be issued nearer the time from the school or see posters in local stores.

Duncan McNeil MSP

Well, it's finally started. After months of shadow boxing, the election campaign has begun in earnest.

You can now look forward to several weeks of your tea being interrupted by canvassers knocking over your garden gnomes as they try to stuff the whole street's leaflets through your letterbox or loudspeaker vans outside your window.

As well as the various candidates (and although I'm writing this as your MSP, I will merely be one of the candidates for the Greenock and Inverclyde constituency by the time you read it) making promises about what they would do in return for your vote, they also want to trumpet their record – either in office or opposition.

Looking back over my last four years, one highlight is definitely the ban on smoking in public places. If someone had told you back in 2003 that, by the time of the next Scottish Parliament elections, all our pubs, cafes and restaurants would be smoke-free, would you have believed them?

I was certainly surprised by how smoothly what was a pretty fundamental culture shift went: there were no riots in the streets and the new laws are, on the whole, being observed.

No surprise, though, is the news that workers in the hospitality industry are already enjoying healthier working environments. Bar and waiting staff shouldn't be exempt from the workplace protection everyone else takes for granted – a fact which overcame my original scepticism about the ban.

That being said, the new smoke-free laws have to be just one weapon in our fight against poor public health in places like Inverclyde. We also need to do more to reduce the number of people who smoke. That means high quality, accessible smoking

cessation services and, as evidence from elsewhere shows, stopping the next generation picking up the suicidal habit by raising the minimum purchasing age for tobacco from 16 to 18.

And, now that the future of the IRH is settled, the key challenge for the NHS must be shifting its focus from simply fixing us when we fall ill, to helping us lead longer and healthier lives – stopping us developing the serious, chronic conditions which blight and curtail too many lives in our part of the world.

Duncan can be contacted at the Parliamentary Office, 20 Union Street, Greenock PA15 8JL, Tel: 01475 791820, Fax: 01475 791821, by Textphone for the hearing impaired: 01475 791824, by E-mail:

duncan.mcneil.msp@scottish.parliament.uk or via his website: www.duncanmcneil.com

Disco Parties

Is your child a bit too old for Funworld or a Bouncy Castle Party? Think of the expense of taking 8 or more youngsters to the cinema for the afternoon followed by a McDonald's. Why not consider holding a Disco Party in Wemyss Bay Community Centre. You can hire the centre, complete with disco unit and Tiffany and Amy, the resident DJ Bay-B's, for only £50 for a two hour party. Community Association volunteers open and lock up after your party and the DJ Bay-B's set up and run the disco. All you have to do is come along with your guests and have fun. You are asked to return the centre to the state you found it but a quick brush over is enough to tidy up. The centre's kitchen is available if you wish to provide hot food and there are plenty of tables and chairs.

For more information, or to make your booking, contact **Kirsty 520738**.

Waste collection

Your black bin will be collected on Tuesdays 3rd & 17th April and 1st, 15th & 29th May. Your blue and brown bins will be emptied on Tuesdays 10th & 24th April and 8th & 22nd May.

Country People's Club

The April meetings of the above club will be held at 2.30pm in the Chart Room, Kip Marina, Inverkip. Speakers are as follows:
Wed 4th April: Mr Ian Quinn on the subject of "The Waverly's Diamond Jubilee".

All members, old and new, and visitors will be made most welcome. The Subscription is £9 per annum and £1 for visitors.

Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Ann Haig on Tel: 522316.

Hire of Furniture

The Community Association can rent out furniture from the community Centre at a very reasonable cost.

If you need to hire furniture, a table and eight chairs cost £10. In addition, it is necessary to leave a £50 deposit which is returnable when the furniture is returned to the centre in good condition. If you are interested in this service, please contact **Kirsty** on **520738**.

Anonymous Articles

While we are happy to print articles and withhold the sender's name, if requested, we must have a note of the person's name and contact details before we can print anything. This is to protect us, should someone later complain about an article. You will find that any publication will take the same position.

Village News - Can You Help?

We have a dedicated band of distributors who help out each month by delivering the Village News to homes in their area however we still require more help. In particular, we need more distributors to cover parts of Greenock Road and the Lighthouses. If you can spare an hour once a month please phone Eila on 529375.

Similarly if you are aware of any other areas in the village which do not receive regular copies of the Village News, please get in touch in order that we can rectify this.

Do you have some local news and are desperate to share it? Telephone Eila on 529375 or send your articles to

eila@wemyssbay.plus.com

Interested in Advertising?

1500 copies of the Village News are produced each month. Over 1200 homes in the village receive a hand-delivered copy and the remainder are placed in the doctor's surgery and local shops. In addition copies of the adverts are displayed in the Community Centre for one month.

<u>Advert Size</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Price</u>
1/8th page (standard)	64mm x 45mm	£12/issue
1/4 page	128mm x 45mm or 64mm x 90mm	£24/issue
1/2 page	128mm x 90mm	£45/issue
Full page	180mm x 128mm	£90/issue

(Dimensions are approximate, width x height)

If you would like to discuss taking out an advert in the Village News, either as a one-off or on a regular basis, why not contact **Ken** at eila@wemyssbay.plus.com or phone: **529375**. Ken can advise and help with the lay out of your advert and any artwork.

Wemyss Bay web site

Do you run a group in Wemyss Bay or the surrounding area? Do you know that you can now add details of your group to the web site and keep those details up to date through an online control panel? Go to the following address to add or update details of your group: <http://wemyssbay.net/todo/>

And Now For the Small Print.....

Please note that we do our best to ensure that adverts are neither misleading or offensive, however the appearance of an advertisement in the Village News does not imply that either the editors or the Community Association endorse the advertiser and / or their products / services.

With respect to articles, we reserve the right to edit as we see fit to prevent offence and / or inaccuracies. We also reserve the right to ask local groups / individuals to respond to any articles received.

Fly the friendly skies

Last month we told you about some in flight announcements. Here are some more examples that have been heard or reported:

1. "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."
2. "As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses."
3. And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"
4. Heard on Southwest Airlines just after a very hard landing in Salt Lake City the flight attendant came on the intercom and said, "That was quite a bump, and I know what y'all are thinking. I'm here to tell you it wasn't the airline's fault, it wasn't the pilot's fault, it wasn't the flight attendant's fault, it was the asphalt."
5. Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas, on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was fighting to control the plane. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"
6. Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."
7. An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the officer. "What is it?" The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"
8. After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."
9. Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: "We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways."
10. Heard on a Southwest Airline flight. "Ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to smoke, the smoking section on this airplane is on the wing and if you can light 'em, you can smoke 'em."
11. A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airport after it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made an announcement over the intercom, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 293, non-stop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and, therefore, we should have a smooth and uneventful flight. Now sit back and relax... OH, MY GOD!" Silence followed, and after a few minutes, the captain came back on the intercom and said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am so sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attendant accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger in Economy yelled, "That's nothing - you should see the back of mine."

Finally

The closing date for the May edition of the Village News will be Friday 20th April at 6pm. It is helpful if you send in any articles as soon as you have them rather than leave them to the very last minute – this means that we would have a little more time to put things together before having to get them to the printer. Send your information to **Eila Roberts, 14 Brueacre Drive, Wemyss Bay** Tel: **529375** E-mail: **eila@wemyssbay.plus.com** or drop it into the Village News folder in Spar. Adverts should be sent to Ken at the same address. If you wish to discuss an article for inclusion or if you have any questions about advertising please feel free to phone us on **529375**.

Kid's Stuff

Spring is the time of year when we start to hear all the birds singing as they build their nests, find a mate and lay their eggs. Don't stop feeding them yet as they need lots of extra food for their babies. The birds below are just a few of the ones seen or heard in Wemyss Bay over the last year. How many can you find?

L	S	K	C	O	N	N	U	D	R	I	B	K	C	A	L	B
N	O	R	M	T	W	A	R	B	L	E	R	W	O	X	A	L
L	G	N	C	B	T	I	T	T	A	E	R	G	S	O	E	U
G	O	J	G	O	L	D	C	R	E	S	T	D	E	H	R	E
W	L	A	O	T	U	P	N	K	L	W	O	Y	N	W	A	T
C	D	F	K	W	A	H	W	O	R	R	A	P	S	A	R	I
R	F	F	L	X	R	I	M	M	A	G	P	I	E	P	E	T
E	I	A	E	T	S	E	L	C	R	B	R	H	N	A	H	R
P	N	N	I	U	Q	N	N	E	I	O	S	S	G	C	C	E
E	C	C	D	F	I	T	E	W	D	Z	T	U	P	K	T	K
E	H	F	M	K	S	N	O	I	T	T	L	R	O	C	A	C
R	D	F	S	C	F	R	E	H	G	N	I	H	T	A	C	E
C	R	I	W	I	C	O	A	L	T	I	T	T	L	L	Y	P
E	S	H	N	G	E	H	C	N	I	F	L	L	U	B	L	D
E	L	C	H	A	F	F	I	N	C	H	T	E	S	I	F	O
R	H	A	E	G	N	I	W	D	E	R	O	B	I	N	D	O
T	C	E	B	M	R	L	N	O	E	G	I	P	D	O	O	W

Blackbird
 Blackcap
 Blue-Tit
 Bullfinch
 Chaffinch
 Chiffchaff
 Coal Tit
 Crow
 Dunnock
 Flycatcher
 Goldcrest
 Goldfinch
 Great Tit
 Greenfinch
 Long-tailed Tit
 Magpie
 Redwing
 Robin
 Rook
 Siskin
 Sparrowhawk
 Tawny Owl
 Thrush
 Treecreeper
 Warbler
 Woodpecker
 Wood Pigeon
 Wren

WORDFINDER

D	T	I
S	E	R
I	V	Y

Try and find as many words as possible using the letters below. Each letter can only be used once and every word must contain the letter in the middle square. No plurals, names or hyphenated words are allowed. There are over 160 possible words and at least one 9-letter word.

20 words – at least you're trying! 25 words – good
 35 words – well done 45+ words – brain-box!!

SUDOKU

				6				
	6		3	9	5	7		
7							3	8
	7				9	2		
2	3						8	5
		9	5				7	
3	4							9
		2	8	7	3		1	
				2				

Sudoku is straightforward once you get the hang of it and relies on logic to solve it. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty square so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains the numbers 1-9. (This means that no number can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.) Good Luck